Miscanthus Vegetative Hedges for Soil Conservation: Case Study of a Michigan Corn and Soybean Production System

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Grassed waterways (NRCS 412 Standard) are a recommended conservation practice for healing ephemeral gully erosion. Waterways convey concentrated-flow water, reduce gully erosion, prevent flooding, and limit sediment and/or nutrient loss to surface water. However, recent increases in commodity prices effectively discourage farmers from using grassed waterways. Vegetative barriers, a less land-area extensive conservation practice, could be used. A designed narrow vegetative barrier (NRCS 601 Standard) of *Miscanthus sinensis* was evaluated for its effectiveness as an alternative to a grassed waterway. Five years of upslope soil deposition data from three vegetated *Miscanthus* barriers installed across a concentrated flow within a small watershed is presented. Technology used for establishing the *Miscanthus* vegetative barriers is also presented.